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UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST
POINT, NEW YORK ✓

1. Entrance to Grounds from Railroad Station and Boat Landing.
2. Looking North up the Hudson River. Views of Power House and Riding Hall.
3. Administration Building, Containing Offices of the Commandant and his Assistants.
4. Entrance to "The Plain." Riding Hall on right.
5. -Riding Hall Where the Cadets are Taught to Ride.
6. Cadet Chapel. South Barracks in Foreground.
7. Rear of Callum Memorial Hall and View of Bachelors' Building, Overlooking the Hudson.
8. Academic Buildings, Where the Cadets Receive Instruction and Recite their Lessons.
9. West Point Walks. Trophy Point. Here are Many Trophies Captured in War.
10. The Plain—The Cadet Drill Ground.
11. On Dress Parade. The Color Guard.
12. Future Officers of our Armies.
13. Double Time.
14. Marching in Column.
15. Left Front into Line.
16. Companies in Line.
17. Cadets Passing Before Reviewing Officers.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

IN 1776 the Congress of the thirteen colonies, then engaged in a desperate war for independence, directed the Board of War to establish a military school. But Congress could then spend neither time, nor money, nor men, in carrying out this design. General Knox, who at that time was aide to General Washington, and who later became Secretary of War, advised the founding of a military school which would be similar to the one at Woolwich in England.

Throughout his life Washington constantly urged the establishment of a military school, remembering only too well the extent to which the American troops were dependent upon European volunteers for instruction in both artillery and engineering practice. In 1794, following an urgent appeal in the Presidential message of the year before, Congress decreed the establishment of a corps of thirty-two cadets to be instructed in artillery practice and in military engineering. From that time to the present day the grade of cadet has existed in our army. The academy was founded in the same year at West Point in a stone building near the site now known as Trophy Point. Fire destroyed the building two years later and the school was closed.

In 1798 the Second Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers was created and Congress provided that fifty-six cadets should be enrolled and instructed and four officers were especially detailed as instructors. In 1800, President Adams presented to Congress a message advocating military and naval schools, repeating in these words the plea which Washington had formerly made:

“A thorough examination of the subject will evince that the art of war is both comprehensive and complicated; that

it demands much previous study; and that the possession of it in its most improved and perfect state is always of great moment to the security of a nation."

Congress failed to respond, but in 1801 Secretary of War Dearborn directed that officers and a civilian should make up the teaching force.

This order, however, lacked the authority of the United States Government which was finally secured in 1802, when Congress passed an act establishing a corps of engineers to consist of seven officers and ten cadets "to constitute a military academy." Thus the Military Academy actually dates from the year 1802.

In the early days of the school anyone was admitted from twelve to thirty-four years of age, with or without any mental training and without any physical examination. Cadets might enter at any time when the school was in session, which was only during the warm months of the year. School recitations were from 8 A. M. to 1 P. M., and from 2 to 4 P. M., with additional classes in the evening. The course in mathematics, though poor according to present standards, was far ahead of instruction in other branches. Attendance depended entirely upon the whim of the cadet, who came and went as he pleased. Under such conditions the Academy fell into disgrace, and in 1811, a year before our second war with Great Britain, the institution was without students. From 1802 to 1811 the greatest number of cadets in attendance throughout any one year was thirty-six.

The war of 1812 served to awaken Congress at last to the need of a real military school. The school was reorganized upon a somewhat better basis. The number of professors was increased and the number of cadets raised to two hundred and fifty. Mental requirements were mentioned, though not actually demanded at that time. The school

for which Washington and Adams had asked, and which Jefferson had founded, became a real academy under Madison.

The requirements, both mental and physical, have become more strict year by year, and now only exceptional young men are able to pass the test required for entrance and still fewer are able to finish the course.

Every cadet is now instructed in all branches of the service. He is at home in the infantry, in the artillery, in the cavalry and among the engineers.

"Honor, obedience, efficiency," are the watchwords which have made the West Point graduate an honest, honorable, fearless gentleman, second to none in his knowledge of military matters.

Any senator, congressional district, or territorial district including Porto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii, as well as the District of Columbia, is entitled to have one cadet at the Academy, while the President has the right to appoint forty at large. The law provides that after 1910, a successor may be appointed to any cadet who has finished three years of the four-year course at the Academy. The number is thus limited to 533.

In these days of fair play an appointment is usually made as a result of a competitive examination open to all residents of the district. All applicants must be between 17 and 22 years of age and physically sound. They are required to pass examinations in English grammar, English composition and literature, algebra, geometry, physical geography, history of the United States and general history.

While at the academy, a cadet receives \$709.50 a year which is more than sufficient to pay his expenses.

With the country's growth in wealth and population West Point has kept constant pace. From the single little

stone building used in 1795 the institution has increased to more than 160 buildings, with many others planned but not yet built. The names of the men who have upheld its honor shine forth in the lists of those who have lived and dared for their country.

The 2,336 acres which make up the West Point reservation are beautifully situated 28 miles from New York City, on a high bluff overlooking the Hudson River. The film necessarily presents only the most prominent buildings and a review of the cadets in their manœuvres.

We are shown the "Headquarters" with its portcullis, the Riding Hall where the cadets are taught horsemanship, the Academic Buildings given over to classrooms, and the "Plain" where drills and parades are held. The Battle Monument, erected to the memory of three graduates who died in battle, is shown across the plain.

QUESTIONS, TOPICS, SUGGESTIONS

1. How are boys appointed to West Point?
2. What tests must they pass?
3. What are the aims of the United States Government in offering this training?
4. Name graduates of West Point who gained fame in the War of 1812, in the Mexican War, in the Civil War, in the Spanish-American War.
5. What boys from your district are now at West Point?
6. Bring pictures of West Point buildings not shown in film.
7. What historical facts are associated with West Point?

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